



Bob and Dottie Nieradka finally get it right in Aruba

It may have taken them fifty years to do it, but finally, on their Golden Anniversary, Bob and Dottie Nieradka of Clifton, New Jersey finally did all the things that people associate with getting married, including for the first time putting an actual wedding ring on Dottie's finger.

Devoted visitors to Aruba, Bob and Dottie, better known to her Aruba Phoenix Resort extended family as "Diva," welcomed over 100 good friends from their years at the resort to share a renewal of vows on the beach at sunset on Tuesday evening. This special occasion had been in the planning for a number of years, and sharing it then during her first trip to Aruba was their daughter Barbara with her husband Paul and their two children Dylan, thirteen and Dakota, ten.

"My parents have gotten married in phases," explains Barbara, "in 1956, while my father was in the Navy in California they eloped to Reno, Nevada. My father's mother, Lottie, was not the least bit happy about it at all, but now she and my mother are best friends."

Ten years after that elopement Bob and Dottie had at long last, a church wedding, but through the years Dottie still wore only the engagement ring that Bob had given her ten years before. During the days preceding their renewal of vows, Bob did a bit of shopping, and found the perfect wedding band to compliment the ring that has resided on Dottie's finger for the past fifty years.

After Judge William Golden of New Jersey conducted a brief and entertaining ceremony on the beach, amusing the gathering with a wry history of the couple as their many time sharing friends know them, Bob surprised Dottie with the beautiful gift, presented by ring-bearer Dakota. "You done good, Bob," whispered Dottie tearfully as he placed the ring on her finger to the applause of their loving friends and family, including Avril, Sheryl, Gertie and Mirella, employees at the Phoenix Resort. The evening finished with a gala dinner arranged by the couple in the banquet room. Astrid Muller, General Manager of the Phoenix personally saw that everything was as perfect as it need be for this wonderful evening for her very special guests. As the sun dipped below the horizon Bob and Dottie were regaled with gifts and cards from the many people who have come to know and love them, and were overjoyed to share this perfect moment with them. Congratulations to Bob and Dottie, it is a joy to all islanders to share this special occasion with you.